

original context: "I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should 'make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,' thus building a wall of separation between Church & State."

In other words, the "wall" was designed not to prevent people of faith from expressing their views in the public square, or to discourage them from applying their faith to public life, but rather to prevent the Federal Government from suppressing Judeo-Christian beliefs or their adherents.

What of President Jefferson's own practice as a public figure? Consider the words of James Hutson, Chief Manuscript Historian at the Library of Congress, in a recent article on the "wall of separation."

Jefferson's public support for religion appears . . . to have been more than a cynical political gesture. Scholars have recently argued that in the 1790s Jefferson developed a more favorable view of Christianity that led him to endorse the position of his fellow Founders that religion was necessary for the welfare of a republican government, that it was, as Washington proclaimed in his Farewell Address, indispensable for the happiness and prosperity of the people. Jefferson had, in fact, said as much in his First Inaugural Address. His attendance at church services in the House (of Representatives) was, then, his way of offering symbolic support for religious faith and for its beneficent role in republican government.

In summary, it was because of his firm conviction that the state should never impede the liberties of religious citizens or organizations in the public square that Mr. Jefferson penned the Statue for Religious Freedom, not because of a secular desire to stamp out religion under the foot of government power. His Statute was not borne out of an enmity to religion, but a desire to protect it. And for that, on its 220th anniversary, the Virginia Statue for Religious Freedom and its author Thomas Jefferson should be honored by this body.

MOTORSPORTS FAIRNESS AND PERMANENCY ACT

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Motorsports Fairness and Permanency Act. This bill would make permanent the tax treatment of speedways and racing facilities around the country.

This legislation will provide needed certainty to track and speedway operators regarding the depreciation of their properties. For decades, motorsports facilities were considered as "theme and amusement facilities" for depreciation purposes. Congress codified this treatment as part of the Jumpstart our Business Strength Act of 2004. The Motorsports Fairness and Permanency Act would simply make this treatment permanent, helping facility owners make long-lead time decisions on major capital investments.

My congressional district is home to Lake Erie Speedway, a $\frac{3}{8}$ -mile track that hosts a full schedule of races, including the Mid-Atlan-

tic Asphalt Racing Alliance and NASCAR Whelen All-American Series. Lake Erie Speedway can accommodate up to 7,000 race fans and has a substantial impact on the Erie County economy.

Pennsylvania is home to 60 motorsports facilities, including Pocono Raceway, which hosts two NASCAR Nextel Cup races each summer. These facilities are an important part of the fabric of our State's economy. Indeed, a recently-released report, authorized by the Pennsylvania General Assembly, found that motorsports facilities have a combined impact of over \$390 million on the State's economy.

Because of the importance of motorsports to my district and State, I am cosponsoring the Motorsports Fairness and Permanency Act. This legislation will make permanent the well-understood and widely-accepted depreciation classification of motorsports facilities. The legislation will provide fair treatment and needed certainty to the dozens of facilities in Pennsylvania and the hundreds located throughout the country.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Motorsports Fairness and Permanency Act.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KARE FAMILY CENTER

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to a great resource in southern Arizona.

For 5 years, the Kinship and Adoption Resource and Education Family Center, KARE, has been providing support and resources for grandparents and other relatives raising children whose biological parents are unable to do so. Considering that Arizona is one of the fastest growing States in the country where children are having to be raised outside of their own birth-families, the center's work has become invaluable to the community members of my district. Through KARE, many families are able to keep more children out of foster homes. It is my pleasure to thank them on this landmark date.

Over the existence of the KARE Family Center, several thousand grandparents, relatives and adoptive parents have received many crucially important services. The center provides such benefits as case management services and mental/behavioral health services, completely free of charge. Without such services, many of the children in question would not be found under the care of their own family, which simply can not be equaled by state care. Grandparents, relatives, and adoptive parents, who are often suffering from declining health and financial burdens, are able to overcome these extraordinary circumstances through the help of the KARE center.

As the need for specialization in the area of adoption and kinship support services grows across the country, the KARE center has helped to develop and promote access to similar programs. In its 5 years, KARE has provided assistance to several thousand families, and with more programs like it in development, far fewer children are left to be raised

in unfamiliar surroundings, or overburdened foster families. Their work has shown that kinship and non-nuclear biological families can provide permanent stable homes, an alternative to foster care and delinquency systems, while 100 percent of children in the program remain in school.

I wish continued success of the KARE Family Center. It is my honor to celebrate with them a history of community involvement and service.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA MCNAIR

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished African American actress and singer, Barbara McNair, who passed away in January after a long battle with cancer. She was a trailblazer, who had a successful recording and acting career in an era when few African Americans, particularly African American women, could sustain themselves in Hollywood. Barbara was also my dear friend.

Barbara McNair was one of the world's most stunningly dynamic, talented, and beautiful singers, who achieved international fame not only as a singer, but also as a movie, television, and Broadway star.

At a young age, Barbara moved to New York where she supported herself with a secretarial job while auditioning off-hours at a variety of New York nightclubs. Persistence eventually paid off when Max Gordon, proprietor of one of the most famous jazz clubs in New York, The Village Vanguard, offered her a job. Soon after, her big break came when she was tagged for a stint on The Arthur Godfrey Show. Not much later, she appeared in shows at world famous nightclubs such as the Purple Onion and the Coconut Grove.

Barbara quickly became one of the country's most popular headliners and a guest on The Steve Allen Show, Hullabaloo, The Bell Telephone Hours, and The Hollywood Palace. She also made guest appearances on popular television shows of the day, including Dr. Kildare, I Spy, Mission: Impossible, Hogan's Heroes, and McMillan and Wife. She hosted television's The Barbara McNair Show, a musical and comedy show in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Her movie credits include If He Hollers Let Him Go, playing opposite Raymond St. Jacques; They Call Me Mr. Tibbs, with Sydney Poitier; and Change of Habit, with Mary Tyler Moore and Elvis Presley in his last scripted movie role.

Her Broadway credits include The Body Beautiful, No Strings, and a revival of The Pajama Game.

Barbara McNair not only acted, but also had a successful recording career. Her recordings include Livin' End, I Enjoy Being a Girl, and The Ultimate Motown Collection.

Barbara McNair had her share of tragedies and setbacks during her life of 72 years. But through it all, she continued to move forward. Her singular accomplishments as an actress and singer are to be admired and remembered.